

others have been held for years without access to a lawyer, no right to hear the charges against them, and no way of appealing rudimentary reviews of their status. They are outside our laws but inside our prisons, at the mercy of a process that is bad for our national security, bad for human rights, and downright horrible for America's image in the world. When we detain individuals for years without ensuring that they have access to a fair and accountable system of justice, we undermine hundreds of years of democracy. This system of arbitrary justice risks replicating the very authoritarianism we fight against. It is far past time to change.

Madam Speaker, as I mentioned, we are a nation of laws, and Congress makes those laws. I am aware that many pundits, columnists, television talk show hosts, and others, have suggested that Congress cannot act intelligently or courageously on this matter. They argue that the members of this body are too bogged down in "Not In My Backyard" arguments, and too quick to accuse each other of being weak on national security. While the President has insisted on closing Guantanamo Bay, many Members of Congress have argued to keep it open. But the debate before us today is not about the place. It's about the policy. The fact of the matter is that this issue cannot be left to the Executive Branch to make it up as they go along. Congress has the responsibility to legislate on this issue in a manner that reflects reason, clarity, and an understanding that our detention policies reflect who we are as a nation.

The Detainment Reform Act presents a plan for dramatic change, contemplating policies and guidelines to address not only current detainees but those who we will need to detain in future conflicts. This legislation creates specific definitions for those who can be detained and provides for a process of judicial review upon their initial detention. This model ensures that we will hold only those persons who pose a danger to our security, and that those who mean us no harm will not have to fear languishing in prison. This bill further provides for judicial proceedings to determine whether an individual can be charged with an offense, transferred to either his country of origin or another country, or whether he can continue to be held should the government petition for his detention. But in this last instance, the government will have to demonstrate enough cause to hold someone as a threat.

Ultimately, Madam Speaker, this bill achieves what we are all seeking: a transparent and accountable process. Frederick Douglas once noted that "the life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous." If we follow his advice in this debate, we can better protect our national security, maintain the sanctity of human rights, and hold fast to the notion that America is a nation committed to justice for all.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 6, 2009*

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 748, had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

#### REGARDING THE TSUNAMI IN AMERICAN SAMOA

#### HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 6, 2009*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as the Ranking Republican Member of the Natural Resources Subcommittee of Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, which has jurisdiction over the U.S. territories, including American Samoa, I was saddened to hear of the severe devastation that occurred after a tsunami hit the island. My deepest sympathies go out to the island nation of 65,000 people.

News outlets are reporting that four tsunami waves 15 to 20 feet high roared ashore on American Samoa. Many of the island towns are located near the sea and the devastation that followed the tsunami event appears to be immense, with pictures of the island showing buildings destroyed, cars and boats displaced and the local people trying to recover. The island is without power and water at this time as it is in the early stages of the recovery effort. Sadly, it has been reported that many people have lost their lives and the casualty numbers may increase as the recovery effort expands.

Madam Speaker, it is my understanding that the airport and sea port are open and emergency supplies and assistance are en route to the island. The Coast Guard will be inspecting the sea port and is bringing in much needed medical and other necessary supplies from Hawaii. In addition, the USS *Ingram* is headed to the island to assist with medical support, rescue efforts and water needs. Shelters are open on the island to assist displaced citizens and efforts are under way to clear roadways. It will most likely take months to recover from this event and we should do all we can to help assist and support American Samoa in their recovery from this tsunami.

I had the privilege of traveling to American Samoa where I received the utmost hospitality. My thoughts and prayers are with their people as they cope with the effects of this sudden natural disaster.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF REVEREND FRED ROGERS UPON HIS 40TH ANNIVERSARY AS PASTOR OF MILTON FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 6, 2009*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Reverend Frederick E. Rogers upon his 40th anniversary as pastor of Milton First Assembly of God in Milton, Florida. He is a true spiritual and community leader, and I am humbled to honor such a dedicated servant of God.

Pastor Rogers is a lifelong Floridian who has always been dedicated to the church. He graduated from Milton High School and received his undergraduate degree from Southeastern Bible Institute in Lakeland, Florida. In 1957, he married Jacquelyn Shelton, and the couple recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Pastor Fred and Jackie pioneered

a church in Eustis, Florida, and then moved on to pastor churches in Greensboro and then Panama City. In August of 1969, they returned to Milton and began pasturing at Milton First Assembly of God.

Pastor Rogers has led a life of service. He has served in a variety of roles for the church, and is currently the Executive Presbyterian in the West District of Florida. He has been a member of the Milton Kiwanis Club since 1970, and served as its president from 1977–1978. In 1977, he was named Santa Rosa county Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year for his continued dedication.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor Fred Rogers on his 40 years with Milton First Assembly of God. Pastor Rogers is a Northwest Florida leader and part of the fabric of our community. My wife Vicki and I wish the best for continued growth and service to Reverend Fred Rogers, his wife Jackie, his children Andy, Robin, and Cheri, his grandchildren, and the entire Milton First Assembly of God church family.

#### HONORING HENRY BIENEN ON HIS RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

#### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 6, 2009*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Henry Bienen on his retirement as president of Northwestern University, one of the world's top universities and my alma mater. Mr. Bienen's retirement on August 31, 2009 leaves a legacy of nearly 15 years of academic excellence and relentless institutional improvement at Northwestern.

Mr. Bienen's tenure as president yielded truly amazing results. Under his leadership, Northwestern enhanced its academic excellence, doubling its number of undergraduate applicants, raising the average SAT score for incoming freshmen by 150 points, and vastly increasing the number of National Merit Scholars. Larger investments in undergraduate research and expanded programs continue to present students with engaging and innovative learning experiences. Mr. Bienen surpassed all expectations when he led "Campaign Northwestern," raising \$1.55 billion in a five-year period. Mr. Bienen also helped solidify Northwestern's financial stability by quintupling the endowment and raising research funding from outside sources by 140 percent.

Of particular interest to me, Mr. Bienen recognized the need for an even greater commitment to scientific research. He put his efforts behind Northwestern's Institute for Nanotechnology and constructed new research facilities that have made Northwestern a world leader in nanotechnology. Mr. Bienen's commitment to nanotechnology and scientific research at large went far beyond the construction of new buildings, as he was personally invested in the recruitment and hiring of distinguished researchers and instructors. His accomplishments and commitment were recognized in 2005, when Mr. Bienen was one of the first three university presidents awarded the Carnegie Corporation Academic Leadership Award for innovative leadership in higher education.